AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

formulating a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network

devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more

network device, wherein the discovery information query is initiated

automatically or by a user;

sending the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching

of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices,

wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input

one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status

of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;

in response to sending the discovery information query, receiving the discovery

information from the search engine, wherein the discovery information

includes Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for the one or more network

devices query; and

using the retrieved discovery information to generate a network topology map for

the one or more network devices retrieving one or more files from the one

or more network devices, each file containing discovery information of a

network device on which the file is stored; and searching the discovery

information in the one or more files based on the discovery information

query.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the further comprising

searching of the discovery information by comprises retrieving via the search

engine the discovery information in the one or more files based on the discovery

information query, wherein the search engine includes an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

5.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

formulate a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;

send the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices, wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;

in response to the sending of the discovery information query, receive the discovery information from the search engine, wherein the discovery information includes Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for the one or more network devices query; and

use the retrieved discovery information to generate a network topology map for

the one or more network devices~~retrieve one or more files from the one or~~

~~more network devices, each file containing discovery information of a~~

~~network device on which the file is stored; and search the discovery~~

~~information in the one or more files based on the discovery information~~

~~query~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the <u>sets</u>

<u>of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine</u>

<u>to search</u>~~searching of~~ the discovery information <u>by</u> ~~comprises~~ retrieving via the

search engine the discovery information in ~~the~~ one or more files based on the

discovery information query, wherein the search engine includes an XML-based

search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the

sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further causes the

machine to manipulate the retrieved discovery information.

9. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the

sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the

machine to display the manipulated discovery information.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

one or more network devices, each network device having stored thereon a file

containing discovery information; and

a search engine to search the discovery information of one or more files stored on

the one or more network devices based on a discovery information query,

wherein the search engine includes

a query formulation device to

input one or more of the following parameters: type of network

devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of

network devices, wherein the discovery information query

is formulated at a console or at the one or more network

devices, the console includes a managing device for the one

or more network devices, wherein the discover information

query is initiated automatically or by a user, and the

discovery information query is sent to the search engine to

facilitate the searching of the discovery information

relevant to the one or more network devices, wherein the

discovery information includes Internet Protocol (IP)

addresses for the one or more network devices, and

use the discovery information to generate a network topology map

for the one or more network devices.

16.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the search engine

comprises an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files comprise one

or more XML-based files.

17.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the one or more network

devices comprise one or more of the following: a router, a switch, a server, a

printer, and a computer.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled)

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein one of the one or more

network devices manages other network devices.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the discovery

information comprises one or more of the following: data describing capabilities

of the one or more network devices, data describing locations of the one or more

network devices, and data describing types of the one or more network devices.

Claims 24-25 (Cancelled)